

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02285 271825Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----271831Z 088185 /43

O P 271654Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 713

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2285

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SW, UR

SUBJECT: HIJACKED SOVIET PLANE

REF: STOCKHOLM 2273

1. DURING CALL BY CHARGE ON MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL-DESIGNATE LEIF LEIFLAND MAY 27, LEIFLAND BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON STATUS OF HIJACKER FROM USSR, SAYING THAT GENERAL SITUATION WAS CLEAR ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ONE OR TWO LEGAL POINTS STILL UNDER STUDY. IN ORDER TO HELP MAKE MATTER CLEAR TO USG, HE SAID HE WOULD FURNISH US ON A CONFIDENTIAL AND RESTRICTED BASIS THE CABLE MFA HAD SENT TO AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER IN WASHINGTON OUTLINING SITUATION, EVEN THOUGH WACHTMEISTER MIGHT HAVE ALREADY FURNISHED SOME INFORMATION TO USG. LEIFLAND ASKED THAT WE RESTRICT KNOWLEDGE OF FACT THAT HE HAD GIVEN US TEXT OF CABLE. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS. (DANELIUS IS MFA LEGAL ADVISOR.)

2. BEGIN TEXT. SOVIET AMBASSADOR JAKOVLEV VISITED ME AT 1730 HOURS YESTERDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIJACKING. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE ASKED TO MEET ME PRIOR TO THE PLANE'S LANDING AT ARLANDA, I.E., THAT THE RUSSIANS ACTED VERY QUICKLY.) DANELIUS PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION.

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I. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT BOTH SWEDEN AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE SIGNATORIES OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON HIJACKING AND OF THE MONTREAL CONVENTION ON AIR SABOTAGE. THEREBY BOTH NATIONS HAD MARKED THEIR DESIRE TO FIGHT AGAINST HIJACKING AND SIMILAR CRIMES. THE AMBASSADOR THEN REQUESTED, ACCORDING TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS,

1) THAT THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD GUARANTEE THE

SAFETY OF THE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAD COME TO SWEDEN WITH
THE HIJACKED PLANE;

2) THAT THESE SOVIET CITIZENS SHOULD GET PERMISSION TO

RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH A SOVIET PLANE, AND

3) THAT "THE CRIMINAL" OR "THE CRIMINALS" SHOULD BE
HANDED TO THE SOVIET UNION.

DANELIUS AND I REPLIED,

1) THAT THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES WOULD, OF COURSE,
PROTECT THE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAD TRAVELED WITH THE
PLANE;

2) THAT THOSE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO DESIRED TO DO THIS
WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET
UNION AND THAT THEY WOULD BE FREE TO FLY BY SOVIET PLANE;

3) THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, IF IT SO DESIRED, COULD
SUBMIT A FORMAL REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION WHICH IN THAT CASE
WILL BE SCRUTINIZED ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE
SWEDISH EXTRADITION LAW. IN THIS CONNECTION WE POINTED
UP THAT THE HAGUE CONVENTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT A NATION
HAND OVER A HIJACKER, RATHER THAT IT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT
THE CHOICE BETWEEN EXPULSION AND PROSECUTION IN THE
COUNTRY.

JAKOVLEV ALSO BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION WHETHER A SOVIET
CONSUL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MEET THE SOVIET CITIZENS AT
ARLANDA. WE STATED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO FORWARD
THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST REGARDING THIS TO THE PERSONS
CONCERNED WHO THEN THEMSELVES COULD INDICATE WHETHER
THEY WANTED TO TALK WITH THE CONSUL OR NOT.

TO SUM UP, IT CAN BE STATED THAT THE SOVIET REPRESENTATION
WAS PRESENTED CALMLY AND THAT NO CRITICISM OF THE
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SWEDISH AUTHORITIES WAS VOICED.

II. TOWARD THE END OF THE DISCUSSION I SAID THAT I
UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MASS MEDIA WERE ALREADY AWARE OF THE
FACT THAT A HIJACKED PLANE HAD LANDED AT ARLANDA. IT
WAS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD GET QUESTIONS
WHETHER THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US IN
ORDER, FOR EXAMPLE, TO REQUEST EXTRADITION. I WAS EAGER,
I SAID, TO DISCUSS WITH THE AMBASSADOR HOW SUCH QUESTIONS
SHOULD BE ANSWERED.

JAKOVLEV REPLIED IMMEDIATELY: "TELL THEM HOW IT IS. TELL
THEM THAT I CALLED ON YOU AND THAT I MADE THREE REQUESTS,
AND TELL THEM HOW YOU REPLIED TO THEM. WE HAVE NOTHING
TO HIDE."

JAKOVLEV'S VISIT WITH ME LASTED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. THE
DISCUSSION ABOUT THE HIJACKING TOOK ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES.
THEREAFTER J. ASKED WHETHER HE, SINCE HE WAS WITH ME
ANYHOW, COULD EXPLAIN CERTAIN "PERSONAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE
CHANGES" AT THE SOVIET TOP AND THE DRAFT OF A NEW SOVIET
CONSTITUTION. HIS EXPLANATION OF THIS TOOK AT LEAST TEN

MINUTES WHEREUPON HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY "OFFICIAL SWEDISH REACTION" TO THE DRAFT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION. I REPLIED THAT I HADN'T READ THE DRAFT, WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, HADN'T EVEN BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THAT WE, ONCE THE TEXT IS AVAILABLE, WOULD OF COURSE STUDY IT WITH INTEREST.

III. LATER IN THE EVENING THE SOVIET EMBASSY REQUESTED BY TELEPHONE TO GET THE NAME OF THE HIJACKER. IN REPLY TO HIRDMAN'S QUESTION, WHO TALKED DIRECTLY WITH THE HIJACKER, THE LATTER STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT THAT HIS NAME BE GIVEN TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

END
TEXT.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, REPORTS, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH02285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770190-0551
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977057/aaaaagdj.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49a8ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STOCKHOLM 2273
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2565624
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIJACKED SOVIET PLANE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SW, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49a8ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009